



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

# Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, April 21, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/>

## Emergency Programs

*Citrus Canker* – For over two years the progress of the citrus canker eradication program has been hampered by a Broward County, Florida circuit court judge's injunction prohibiting the removal of exposed citrus trees (trees within 1,900 ft. of infected citrus trees). In January, 2003, the State's 4th District Court of Appeals overturned the injunction, allowing the removal of exposed trees to again proceed. Starting this week, the State will begin removing exposed trees in Palm Beach County. It is estimated that there are over 200,000 exposed trees in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties that will be scheduled for removal. Opponents of the State's current action have filed an appeal with the State Supreme Court. The Florida Supreme Court agreed on April 14, to hear this appeal (arguments scheduled for August 27, 2003), but in the meantime the State will be able to continue with the removal of exposed trees.

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*National Exotic Woodborer/Bark Beetle Survey Plan*- Comments by State Plant Regulatory Officials from several Western Region States on the draft of the National Exotic Woodborer/Bark Beetle Survey Plan were received. Several were incorporated into the plan, for example, updated information on lures for pheromone trapping, detailed information on deployment of Lindgren funnel traps, and designated time limits for entering new detection and survey data into the NAPIS database to enhance its value. A literature survey of trapping methods and pheromone use for woodborers and bark beetles was requested by two commenters and this was also included. We expect to complete and distribute the plan to the regional offices by mid-May.

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## Domestic Programs

*Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 - Detections of *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 at nursery facilities

that received suspect geraniums are being confirmed but on a much less frequent basis. As of April 21st, there are 26 States with positive confirmations as follows with the 124 establishments, excluding the two rooting stations, tallied by state AL (9), AR(2), CO(1), DE (1), GA (2), ID(1), IL (4), IN (4), IA (6), KS (3), KY(1), MD (3), MI (12), MN (4), MO (6), NH(1), NJ(1), NY(3), NC (12), OH (7), PA (8), SC (8), TN (1), TX (7), VA (10), and WI (7). There are currently 86 nurseries still on hold with control actions having taken place at 122 establishments. Remaining locations with positive testing facilities are making arrangements for control and disinfection actions. To date, 833 establishments have been released. The numbers of samples from plants with symptoms are slowing down considerably in their arrival at the Center for Plant Health Science and Technology Beltsville laboratory after screening at the state or cooperating university diagnostic laboratories. The Action Plan is being revised based on substantial input from the field. PPQ will be releasing a new version revision after the season winds down and a program review is completed. An important update to the plan that is coming includes instructions from the PPQ Permit Unit to the diagnostic screening laboratories for the disposition of cultures and samples they may be retain.

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*Tropical Soda Apple* - A Tropical Soda Apple (TSA) meeting was convened April 15, in Tifton, GA. The group consisted of APHIS-PPQ representatives from AL, FL, GA, LA, and MS; APHIS-Veterinary Services was represented by two attendees from GA; state plant regulatory attendees from AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, and SC; state veterinarians office representatives from FL and GA; and NGOs attendees, including several State Farm Bureaus, the GA Cattlemen, the Livestock Marketing Association, and the Livestock and Poultry News.

A great deal of progress was made toward a regional approach to this federal noxious weed. One major concern was how to regulate TSA movement in the cattle trade. A number of issues were addressed and incorporated into a draft Southern regional MOU. The MOU will be discussed at the Southern Animal Health Association (SAHA) meeting in Ashville, NC the first week of May. Dr. Carter Black of Georgia is leading the revision of the MOU. Florida is proposing to offer restructuring of the current TSA task force into a regional concept in the next meeting, probably in May



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or June. Art Miller of the PPQ Eastern Regional Office is finalizing the minutes from the Tifton meeting, and revising the draft TSA Management Plan per discussion from the meeting. American Farm Bureau representatives indicated they are asking Congress for additional funding for a regional TSA project. Congressmen Dave Weldon & Allen Boyd are apparently interested.

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*Imported Fire Ant* – Program Aid No. 1736 “Imported Fire Ant 2003: Quarantine Treatments for Nursery Stock and Other Regulated Articles” has been updated. This publication is intended for use by stakeholders, primarily in the nursery industry, as a easy to use guide of the treatments approved for use by APHIS as part of the Imported Fire Ant Quarantine in 7 CFR 301.81. This program aid is being distributed within the 13 States and Puerto Rico which have areas under quarantine for imported fire ant, and is also available online at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/pubs/bproglis.html>

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*Aircraft and Equipment Operations* - Aircraft and Equipment Operations (AEO) received a request from R. Nelson Foster, Center for Plant Health Science and Technology, to conduct a spray drift study for the grasshopper and Mormon cricket control program. The study will be conducted during the aerial calibration trials with the Wilbur-Ellis Sevin 5 Bait. This request was prompted to obtain drift data for aerial application of this product. The results from the study will be useful for State Plant Health Directors to plan usage of this bait. Weather permitting, the calibration trials and drift study will be completed by Wednesday, April 23, 2003.

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*Japanese Beetle* - The Japanese Beetle (JB) Best Management Practices Guidelines Team Meeting took place in Louisville, KY, April 9 - 11, 2003. It was a very successful meeting which included a visit to UPS facilities and a demonstration of the use of an excluder to prevent JB entering the cargo planes destined to western protected states. Participants of the meeting included the top officials of three major aircargo companies (Air Borne, FedEx, UPS), USDA/APHIS/PPQ Western Region Program Managers, USDA-ARS scientists, CDFA and Oregon State's Department of Agriculture officials. PPQ presented Certificates of

Appreciation to each of the three aircargo companies in recognition of their progress since the 2002 JB season in sharing excluder designs and sharing management practices to suppress JB populations near cargo planes. The draft of the Guidelines for JB Best Management Practices was reviewed and discussed in detail in order to finalize it within the next 2 weeks.

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*Sudden oak death* - APS will be hosting a two week International Symposium on *Phytophthora ramorum*, 21 April to 4 May, titled: “Sudden Oak Death, How Concerned Should You Be?”.

To quote, “This symposium is being made available to all who have an interest in the recent appearance of a plant disease with the potential to severely impact nursery growers, shippers, the lumber and wood products industry, landscapers, government programs and others. Scientific presentations dealing with the current status of the disease and ongoing research will be presented for a general audience of forestry, nursery, landscape, and government professionals. Discussion sessions will allow ongoing discussion of various aspects of the disease.”

Topics included are:

- Sudden Oak Death as a Disease
- Fungal Identification
- Disease Spread
- Ecological Impacts
- SOD survey, Management, and Control
- Silvicultural Aspects
- Industry Implications (arboriculture, urban forestry, landscape, and nursery)
- Policy and Regulations
- Citizen Concerns

Web site: <http://sod.apsnet.org>

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